



### TESTIMONY OF

**Lydia Tedone, Board Member Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) and Member of the Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN)**

**\*H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.**

*February 23 2017 Appropriations Subcommittee on Health Public Hearing  
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Regional Action Council Funding*

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Senator Markley, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee, My name is Thomas J Steen and I am the Regional Action Council Executive Director for the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) which serves the towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Farmington, Hartford, Hartland, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Suffield, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks. On behalf of the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) and the Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN), I am here today to strongly oppose the grave cuts to regional action councils that will decimate the current prevention network structure.

#### **IMPACT:**

The current proposal could equate to a 100% cut which would mean all of the RACs would be unable to survive such a drastic cut including CASAC.

#### **WHAT WOULD BE LOST?**

- Community mobilization and grant collaboration
- Substance abuse awareness, education and prevention initiatives such as opioid prevention activities
- Behavioral health awareness and promoting the use of screening, brief Intervention and referral to treatment.
- Mental health and suicide prevention awareness and training
- Media advocacy, program development, legislative advocacy
- Leverage funds for local initiatives and conduct fundraising activities to fill gaps
- Community needs assessment with surveys, data collection and trainings
- Develop a biannual epidemiologic report of substance use/abuse and recommendations for changes to the community environment

#### **Solution:**

The Connecticut Prevention Network requests the proposal being considered be rejected and maintain the current structure and funding level.

**We urge you to reject the severe budget cuts to regional action councils and keep in place the current CT Prevention Network structure.**

Lydia Tedone  
Board Member  
Simsbury Resident